(c) detecting in the sample a DNA sequence that amplifies in the presence of the oligonucleotide primers thereby detecting prostate cancer, wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of: blood and semen.

41. (Amended) A method for detecting the presence of a DNA molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:173-175 and 177 in a biological sample, the method comprising:

(a) contacting the sample with at least two oligonucleotide primers in a polymerase chain reaction, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotides is specific for a DNA molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:173-175 and 177; and

(b) detecting in the sample a DNA sequence that amplifies in the presence of the oligonucleotide primers.

42. (Amended) The method of claim 41, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotide primers comprises at least about 10 contiguous nucleotides of a DNA molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:173-175 and 177.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Following the amendments, claims 23-46 are pending in the application.

Claims 30, 41 and 42 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors and to add the correct Markush group language. Claims 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 and 33 have been amended to recite a method for the detection of prostate cancer in a biological sample, wherein the biological sample is either blood or semen. Support for this amendment may be found at page 20, lines 7-9, of the specification as originally filed. It is urged that support for all the above amendments may be found throughout the specification as originally filed and that none of the amendments constitute new matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

23. (Amended) A method for detecting prostate cancer in a patient comprising:

(d) obtaining a biological sample from the patient;

(e) contacting the sample with at least two oligonucleotide primers in a polymerase chain reaction, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotides is specific for a DNA molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:110 and complements of SEQ ID NO:110; and

(f) detecting in the sample a DNA sequence that amplifies in the presence of the oligonucleotide primers thereby detecting prostate cancer, wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of: blood and [serum] <u>semen</u>.

25. (Amended) A method for detecting prostate cancer in a patient comprising:

(d) obtaining a biological sample from the patient;

(e) contacting the sample with at least two oligonucleotide primers in a polymerase chain reaction, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotides is specific for a DNA molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:111 and complements of SEQ ID NO:111; and

(f) detecting in the sample a DNA sequence that amplifies in the presence of the oligonucleotide primers thereby detecting prostate cancer, wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of: blood and [serum] <u>semen</u>.

27. (Amended) A method for detecting prostate cancer in a patient comprising:

(d) obtaining a biological sample from the patient;

(e) contacting the sample with at least two oligonucleotide primers in a polymerase chain reaction, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotides is specific for a DNA molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:115 and complements of SEQ ID NO:115; and

(f) detecting in the sample a DNA sequence that amplifies in the presence of the oligonucleotide primers thereby detecting prostate cancer, wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of: blood and [serum] semen.

29. (Amended) A method for detecting prostate cancer in a patient comprising:

(d) obtaining a biological sample from the patient;

(e) contacting the sample with at least two oligonucleotide primers in a polymerase chain reaction, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotides is specific for a DNA molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 173-175, 177 and complements of SEQ ID NO: 173-175 and 177; and

(f) detecting in the sample a DNA sequence that amplifies in the presence of the oligonucleotide primers thereby detecting prostate cancer, wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of: blood and [serum] semen.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotide primers comprises at least about 10 contiguous nucleotides of a DNA molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 173-175 and 177.

31. (Amended) A method for detecting prostate cancer in a patient comprising:

(d) obtaining a biological sample from the patient;

(e) contacting the sample with at least two oligonucleotide primers in a polymerase chain reaction, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotides is specific for a DNA molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 223 and complements of SEQ ID NO: 223; and

(f) detecting in the sample a DNA sequence that amplifies in the presence of the oligonucleotide primers thereby detecting prostate cancer, wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of: blood and [serum] semen.

33. (Amended) A method for detecting prostate cancer in a patient comprising:

(d) obtaining a biological sample from the patient;

(e) contacting the sample with at least two oligonucleotide primers in a polymerase chain reaction, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotides is specific for a DNA molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:224 and complements of SEQ ID NO:224; and

(f) detecting in the sample a DNA sequence that amplifies in the presence of the oligonucleotide primers thereby detecting prostate cancer, wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of: blood and [serum] semen.

41. (Amended) A method for detecting the presence of a DNA molecule comprising [SEQ ID NO: 115] a sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:173-175 and 177 in a biological sample, the method comprising:

(a) contacting the sample with at least two oligonucleotide primers in a polymerase chain reaction, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotides is specific for a DNA molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:173-175 and 177; and

(b) detecting in the sample a DNA sequence that amplifies in the presence of the oligonucleotide primers.

42. (Amended) The method of claim [39] 41, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotide primers comprises at least about 10 contiguous nucleotides of a DNA molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:173-175 and 177.